

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

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O R 121325Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7561

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MILANO

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

US MISSION NATO 3322

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CSA

CSAF

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

CDR USASETAF VICENZA

CDR 40TH TAC GP AVIANO

CDR 8TH SUPPORT GP LIVORNO

UNCLAS ROME 7726

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, IT

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE, MEDIA REACTION, US PRESIDENT'S VISIT

1. EARTHQUAKE COVERAGE CONTINUES TO DOMINATE ALL MEDIA TODAY.

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REPORTS FOCUS ON YESTERDAYS STRONG AFTERSHOCKS, ON ITALIAN

GOVERNMENT'S RELIEF PROGRAM AND ON ASSISTANCE FROM OVERSEAS. ALL MEDIA STARTING YESTERDAY AFTERNOON REPORTED PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE. COVERAGE STRESSED THAT AN ADDITIONAL 25 MILLION DOLLARS IN DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS ARE BEING APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS AND THAT VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER WILL VISIT ITALY TOMORROW TO GATHER FIRST HAND IMPRESSION ON IMPACT OF EARTHQUAKE AND RECOVERY NEEDS. TV AND RADIO CARRIED DETAILED REPORTS ON COVERAGE OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. TREATMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE GENERALLY HIGHLIGHTS US CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDED AND IN PIPELINE. IL MESSAGGERO, AVANTI AND IL MANIFESTO SEE ELECTORAL IMPLICATIONS IN FORD'S MESSAGE AND ROCKEFELLER MISSION. PAESE SERA SAYS THERE HAS BEEN TALK OF IMPLICATIONS OF TRIP IN "WELL-INFORMED WASHINGTON POLITICAL CIRCLES." L'UNITA' MAKES VERY BRIEF MENTION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REPORT ON AID FROM UK.

2. 1ST NETWORK RADIO MAIN NEWSCASTS LAST EVENING REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS ASKED CONGRESS TO ALLOCATE 25 MILLION DOLLARS AND IS SENDING VP TO EARTHQUAKE AREAS. SECOND NETWORK MAIN RADIO NEWSCASTS CARRIED SAME STORY TELEPHONED BY NY CORRESPONDENT GASTONE ORTONA. MAIN TV NEWSCASTS TUESDAY EVENING REPORTED FORD'S REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION AND ANNOUNED THAT VICE PRESIDENT WILL ARRIVE THURSDAY AT AVIANO AIR BASE FOR TOUR OF STRICKEN AREA.

3. MARINO DE MEDICI FROM WASHINGTON IN IL TEMPO GIVES DETAILED ACCOUNT OF VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, ANNOUNCING HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AID ADMINISTRATOR. "VICE PRESIDENT'S INSPECTION OF STRICKEN AREAS ANNOUNED BY PRESIDENT IN MESSAGE TO CONGRESS STRESSING US DUTY TO ASSIST ITALY." DE MEDICI QUOTES FORD'S REFERENCE TO 1974 JOINT DECLARATION SIGNED DURING PRESIDENT LEONE'S VISIT.

4. CORRIERE DELLA SERA FRONTPAGE STORY REPORTS US SENATE APPROVAL YESTERDAY OF 21 BILLION LIRE FOR EMERGENCY VICTIMS AND ANNOUNCES ROCKEFELLER VISIT. SAME PAPER SUMMARIZED INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE ON INSIDE PAGE AND REPEATED ABOVE ANNOUNCEMENT QUOTING PRESIDENT FORD AND GIVING DETAILED PROGRAM OF VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. ALSO REPORTED CONTRIBUTIONS COLLECTED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN U.S. IN ITALIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY. SAME PAPER LISTS US ASSISTANCE ALREADY SENT TO STRICKEN AREA IN DETAILED ACCOUNT OF AID OFFERED BY NATO COUNTRIES.

5. IL GIORNALE FRONT-PAGE REPORT FROM WASHINGTON SUMMARIZES FORD'S MESSAGE, STRESSES VALUE OF ASSISTANCE AND NOTES THAT PRESIDENT HAS EMPHASIZED EXTRAORDINARY HUMAN TIES BETWEEN ITALY AND U.S.

6. IL POPOLO FRONTPAGE SUBHEADLINE NOTES THAT SENATE APPROVED 25 MILLION DOLLAR ALLOCATION AND ANNOUNCES ROCKEFELLER'S VISIT, QUOTING PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE AND LISTING AMERICAN AID IN INSIDE PAGE STORY.

7. SAME STORY IN IL RESTO DEL CARLINO AND LA NAZIONE.

8. LA STAMPA CARRIES REPORT FROM BRUSSELS ON NATO ASSISTANCE AND ANSA STORY ON 25 MILLION DOLLAR APPROPRIATION AND VICE PRESIDENT TRIP. PAPER QUOTES FROM PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE.

9. LUCIO MANISCO IN IL MESSAGGERO FROM WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE TO SEND ROCKEFELLER MAY CAUSE SOME SUSPICION BECAUSE IT TAKES PLACE ON EVE OF ITALIAN ELECTIONS. MANISCO ADDS: "THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT A US VICE PRESIDENT IS SENT TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY HIT BY A NATURAL CALAMITY ON EVE OF AN IMPORTANT ELECTION. ROCKEFELLER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DANIEL PARKER OF AID. AID IS AGENCY UNDER DEPARTMENT OF STATE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSISTING FOREIGN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY NATURAL CALAMITIES. IT ALSO HAS TASK, HOWEVER, OF PROMOTING POLITICAL STABILITY AND INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SECURITY OF NATIONS ASSISTED. CONTROVERSIAL ASPECTS OF TYPE OF OPERATIONS PURSUED BY AID IN LATIN AMERICA INSPIRED COSTA GRAVAS'S FILM.?"

10. HFL#

IN FRONTPAGE SUBHEADLINE: "FORD REQUESTS 21 BILLION LIRE FOR ITALY FROM CONGRESS." PAPER ADDS: "IMPORTANT ASSISTANCE FROM U.S."

11. AVANTI HEADS FRONTPAGE STORY: "ROCKEFELLER WILL BRING FRIULI ELECTORAL DOLLARS." PAPER COMMENTS: "ON ROCKEFELLER'S SUDDEN VISIT TO ITALY, THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS HYPOTHESES, UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL CONNECTED WITH A DIFFICULT AND DELICATE POLITICAL MOMENT IN ITALY, ON EVE OF ELECTIONS. BUT THERE HAS BEEN AMERICAN ATTEMPT MAKE THIS TRIP SOUND NATURAL BY SPECIFYING THAT ROCKEFELLER, ACCOMPANIED BY DANIEL PARKER, WILL REMAIN IN ITALY ONLY FIVE HOURS." AFTER OUTLINING VICE PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY, PAPER ADDS: "DESPITE BREVITY ROCKEFELLER'S ITALIAN STOPOVER, FORRZI#

KBTEDLH ERBTO EHTW#ITALIAN PEOPLE

THAT U.S. IS A SURE AND FAITHFUL FRIEND WHO HELPS THEM IN MOMENTS OF NEED. IT IS CERTAINLY GENEROUS ASSISTANCE, BUT IT STILL LEAVES US WITH IMPRESSION THAT THE PARTICULAR POLITICAL SITUATION OF ITALY HAS ITS IMPORTANTE IN MAKING FORD REQUEST 25 MILLION DOLLARS AND SEND HIS DEPUTY TO THE EARTHQUAKE AREA."

12. LA REPUBBLICA CARRIES BRIEF FRONTPAGE ANNOUNCEMENT OF

ROCKEFELLER VISIT, SENATE APPROVAL OF 25 MILLION DOLLARS AND  
FORECAST OF "FURTHER INITIATIVES, WHICH WILL BE DETERMINED  
BY ROCKEFELLER'S RECOMMENDATIONS."

13. JOHN CAPPELLI IN PAESE SERA FROM NEW YORK IN BRIEF INSIDE  
PAGE NOTE ANNOUNCES VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, NOTES THAT  
VP'S VISIT TO GERMANY WILL BE DELAYED, REPORTS ALLOCATION OF  
25 MILLION DOLLARS AND ADDS: "WELL-INFORMED POLITICAL CIRCLES  
IN US CAPITAL SAY THIS TRIP IS CHANCE U.S. SHOULD NOT MISS  
FOR ITS POSSIBLE ELECTORAL IMPLICATIONS." VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/T: ROME 7726. #AS RECEIVED. PARAS 10 AND 11.  
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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